IN THE CLAIMS

1-65 (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for determining the amount of [[MIF]] macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) protein in a ~~patient~~ sample, comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample ~~from the patient~~; and

(b) determining the amount of MIF protein in the sample using an immunoassay with an anti-MIF antibody, wherein the immunoassay is selected from the group consisting of ELISA, immunoprecipitation, immunohistocytochemistry, and Western analysis, and wherein MIF is a human MIF polypeptide having a molecular weight approximately 12.5 kDa, and wherein the anti-MIF antibody binds to the 12.5 kDa human MIF consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

67. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, urine, lymph, saliva, tumor tissue, placental tissue, umbilical cord tissue, amniotic fluid, chorionic villi tissue and combinations thereof.

68. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the anti-MIF antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment or fusion protein thereof.

69-72 (Canceled)

73. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein[[,]] the sample is from a patient that is known or suspected to be suffering from a condition or disease caused by cytokine-mediated toxicity.

74. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 73, wherein said condition or disease caused by cytokine-mediated toxicity is selected from the group consisting of endotoxin-induced septic shock, endotoxin-induced toxic shock, shock, inflammatory diseases, graft versus host disease, autoimmune diseases, acute respiratory distress syndrome,

granulomatous diseases, chronic infections, transplant rejection, cachexia, asthma, viral infections, parasitic infections, malaria, and bacterial infections.

75. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the sample is a member selected from the group consisting of body fluid, tissue and cell lysate.

76. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic method for determining an amount of MIF protein in a sample, comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample; and

(b) determining the amount of MIF in the sample using a direct or an indirect detection technique and wherein MIF is a human MIF polypeptide having a molecular weight of approximately 12.5 kDa, and consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

77. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic method of Claim 76, wherein the direct detection technique is mass spectrometry or circular dichroism spectroscopy.

78. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic method of Claim 76, wherein the indirect detection technique involves an immunoassay.

79. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic method of Claim 76, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, urine, lymph, saliva, tumor tissue, placental tissue, umbilical cord tissue, amniotic fluid, chorionic villi tissue and combinations thereof.

80. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic method of Claim 76, wherein the sample is a member selected from the group consisting of body fluid, tissue and cell lysate.

81. (New) A method for determining an amount of MIF protein in a sample, comprising determining the presence or absence of MIF in a sample using a direct or an indirect detection technique and wherein MIF is a human MIF polypeptide having a molecular weight of approximately 12.5 kDa and containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

82. (New) The method of Claim 81, wherein the method comprises determining the amount of MIF present in the sample.

83. (New) The method of Claim 81, wherein the determination of the presence or absence of MIF is accomplished directly by collecting data measurements of the intact sample.

84. (New) The method of Claim 81, wherein the determination of the presence or absence of MIF is accomplished indirectly by collecting data produced after treating the sample to allow determination if MIF is present or absent.